



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Chancellor's Community Forum

DCPS Early Childhood Services

90% of Brain Development Occurs
by the Age of Five!



Goals for this Evening

- Tonight community members will:
 - Learn and ask questions about the DCPS Early Childhood services.
 - Hear from a panel of DCPS educators about what Early Childhood services and supports are available for teachers, students, and their families.
 - View and respond to a video on play based learning.
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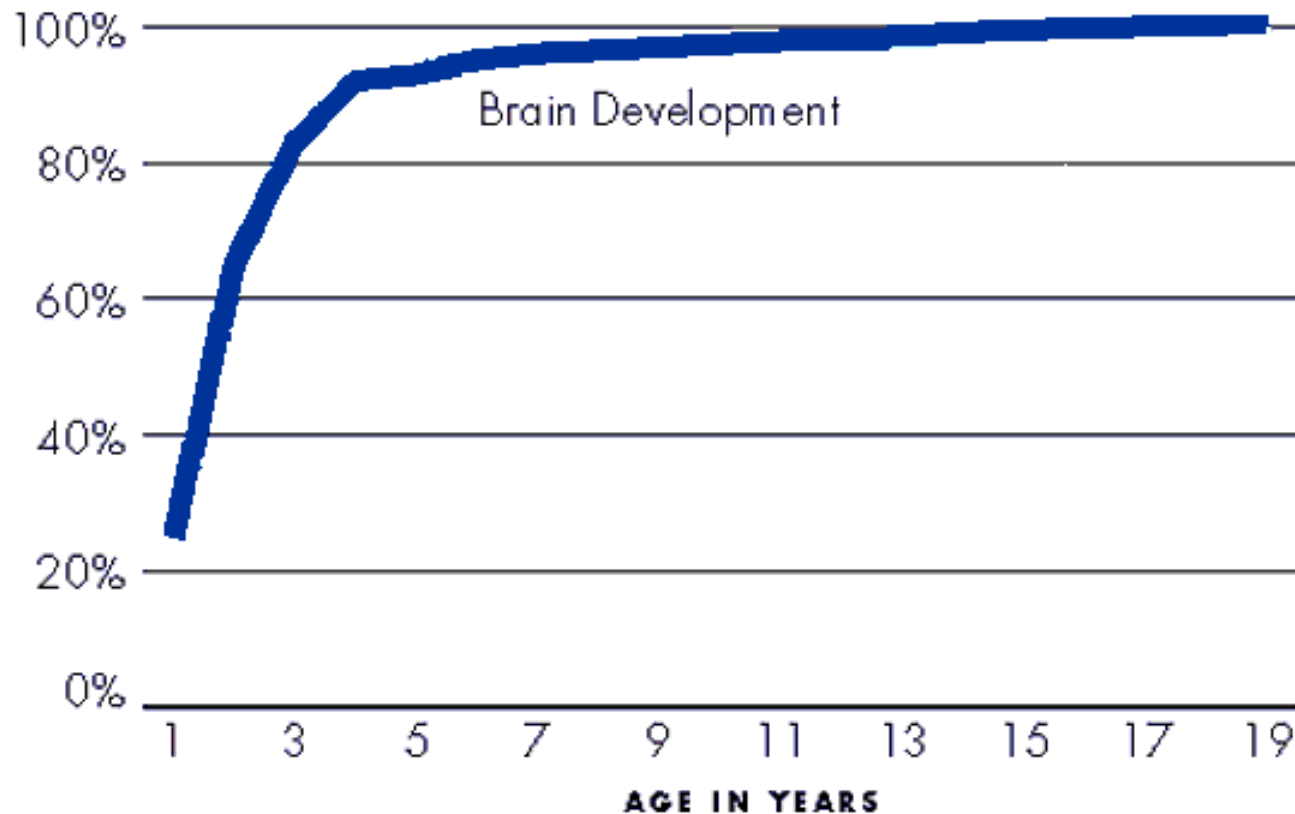
Panel Discussion

- Miriam Calderon
 - Director, Early Childhood Education

 - Nathaniel Beers
 - Director, Early Stages

 - Melissa Grant
 - DCPS Teacher
-

Brain Growth and Child Age



Early Stages

- Vision
 - All young children with special needs in the District of Columbia are provided with a strong start to school.
- Mission
 - Early Stages will identify and evaluate three- to five-year-old children and recommend appropriate services for those with special needs.

Early Identification

- Data shows children who are identified early will achieve more academic success.
- To identify children early, DCPS must have robust Child Find effort.
 - DCPS has two child find field coordinators in each Ward.
 - Early Stages has a new website
www.earlystagesdc.org



Early Stages is a District of Columbia Public Schools program for children three to five years old. We are here to help you identify any delays that your child may have and provide appropriate services to help address those delays.

Children referred to the Early Stages Center will receive a full evaluation and treatment or services for a diagnosed delay. These services are available to all families that live in the District, whether your child goes to public school, private school, is home-schooled or has not yet entered the school system.

NEWS AND EVENTS

October 1, 2009

DCPS Early Stages Center scheduled to open on October 1, 2009.

October 12, 2009

Columbus Day: All schools and administrative offices closed.

[Read more](#)

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Early Stages FAQs

Find answers to your questions about the Early Stages Center, how we work and the services that are available for your child.

[English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Child Developmental Milestones

In this document, you will find a timeline of specific milestones and the ages at which most children reach them.

[English](#) | [Spanish](#)

FOR FAMILIES



**MAKE AN APPOINTMENT
FOR YOUR CHILD**

>> Call 202-698-8037

FOR PROFESSIONALS



**SUBMIT A REFERRAL
FOR A CHILD**

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Early Stages

- Screening children prior to coming to Early Stages.
 - Ages and Stages Questionnaire can be completed online, via telephone or on paper.
- Evaluations at Early Stages.
 - Children will be scheduled to see the appropriate team based on their screening results.
- Follow up.
 - All children will receive follow up regardless of eligibility for special education services.

Early Stages Evaluations

- High Quality, Timely Evaluations by highly qualified staff.
- Center-based evaluations in the initial phase.
 - Natural settings (home or daycare) if unable to be tested at Early Stages
- Hearing and vision screens for all children
- Assessment of immunization status, lead status and well-child care status

Early Stages Follow Up

- All children seen by Early Stages will be followed up.
- Children eligible for special education will be eligible to have a Family Care Coordinator accompany their parent to visit potential placements.
- Children eligible for special education will receive follow up at 3 month intervals for 6 months and then every 6 months.
 - To ensure the services are in place and that child is making progress.
- Children not eligible for special education will receive follow up every 6 months for 1 year and then annually till child turns 5 years old.
 - To ensure no additional needs have become evident.

Placements

- Early Stages will be working with families to ensure that every child receives the services that they need in the least restrictive environment possible.
- Early Stages will be working with Early Childhood Education to make sure the right types of classrooms are available to help children have a strong start



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Video Activity

PLAY BASED LEARNING & Standards

Source: Creative Curriculum in
Action: Teaching Strategies Inc.

Questions

and

Answers
